

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A movable chute apparatus for a mowing machine, the chute apparatus comprising:
 - 5 a. a chute flap for connection to a housing of a mowing machine, the chute flap being selectively movable between a closed chute flap position and an open chute flap position wherein the chute flap provides a discharge chute for discharging material from the housing; and
 - 10 b. a retaining flap for connection to the housing of the mowing machine, the retaining flap being selectively movable between a retaining position and a non-retaining position wherein the retaining flap can in its retaining position provide support to maintain the chute flap in either its closed or open chute flap position.
2. The movable chute apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the chute flap is pivotally connected to the housing.
- 20 3. The movable chute apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the chute flap is biased toward either its open chute flap position or its closed chute flap position.
4. The movable chute apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the chute

flap further comprises a flange portion and a wall portion.

5. The movable chute apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the retaining flap is pivotally connected to the housing.

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6. The movable chute apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the retaining flap is biased toward its retaining position.

10 7. The movable chute apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the retaining flap further comprises a first section and a second section, the second section being adapted for securing the chute flap in its closed chute flap position.

15 8. The movable chute apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the chute flap and the retaining flap are both rotatable about different axes.

9. A movable chute apparatus for a mowing machine, the chute apparatus comprising:

20 a. a chute flap for connection to a housing of a mowing machine, the chute flap being selectively movable between a closed chute flap position wherein the chute flap can provide a portion of the housing and an open chute flap position wherein the chute flap can provide a discharge chute for discharging material from the housing; and

- b. a retaining flap for connection to the housing of the mowing machine, the retaining flap being selectively movable between a retaining position and a non-retaining position wherein the retaining flap can in its retaining position provide support to maintain the chute flap in either its closed or open chute flap position.

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- 10. The movable chute apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the chute flap is pivotally connected to the housing.
- 11. The movable chute apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the chute flap is biased toward either its open chute flap position or its closed chute flap position.

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- 12. The movable chute apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the chute flap further comprises a flange portion and a wall portion.
- 13. The movable chute apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the retaining flap is pivotally connected to the housing.

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- 14. The movable chute apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the retaining flap is biased toward its retaining position.
- 15. The movable chute apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the

retaining flap further comprises a first section and a second section, the second section being adapted for securing the chute flap in its closed chute flap position.

- 5 16. The movable chute apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the chute flap and the retaining flap are both rotatable about different axes.
17. A movable chute apparatus for a mowing machine, the chute apparatus comprising:
 - 10 a. a chute flap for connection to a housing of a mowing machine, the chute flap being selectively movable between a closed chute flap position and an open chute flap position wherein the chute flap provides a discharge chute for discharging material from the housing;
 - 15 b. a retaining flap for connection to the housing of the mowing machine, the retaining flap being selectively movable between a retaining position and a non-retaining position wherein the retaining flap can in its retaining position maintain the chute flap in either its closed or open chute flap position; and
 - 20 c. wherein the chute flap and the retaining flap are both rotatable about substantially perpendicular axes.
18. A method for moving a chute apparatus of a mowing machine, the method comprising:

- a. lifting a retaining flap on a mowing machine from a retaining position to a non-retaining position to allow a chute flap attached to the mowing machine to move from a closed position to an open position whereby the chute flap provides a discharge chute.

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19. The method of claim 18 further comprising returning the retaining flap to the retaining position where the retaining flap provides support to maintain the chute flap in the open chute flap position.
- 10 20. A method for moving a chute apparatus of a mowing machine, the method comprising:
 - a. lifting a retaining flap on a mowing machine from a retaining position to a non-retaining position by pivoting the retaining flap along a first axis to allow a chute flap attached to the mowing machine to pivot along a second axis from a closed position to an open position whereby the chute flap provides a discharge chute; and
 - b. wherein the first axis and the second axis are substantially perpendicular to one another.
- 15 20. The method of claim 20 further comprising returning the retaining flap to the retaining position where the retaining flap provides support to maintain the chute flap in the open chute flap position.